

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9595

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : PFOR, UN, IS, EG
SUBJECT : EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS

REF: CAIRO 3358, USUN 5114

1. FROM OUR EQUALLY RESTRICTED VANTAGE POINT, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS EITHER ISRAELI OR EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS IN KILOMETER 101 TALKS, AND WE SERIOUSLY QUESTION WHETHER LIMITED UN INFORMATION FILTERING THROUGH THIRD-HAND CHANNELS AND NOT COVERING PRIVATE PORTIONS OF GAMASY-YARIV TALKS PROVIDES A SUFFICIENT BASIS.
2. AS IN CASE OF GOE (REFTEL), GOI HAS MADE NO EFFORT TO KEEP US ABREAST OF KILOMETER 101 TALKS, AND FOR THE SAME REASON AS USINT CAIRO, WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM PRYING--LEST GOI SEEK OUR INTERVENTION.
3. WE CAN ONLY ASSUME AS GENERAL PROPOSITION THAT BOTH ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS STRONGLY DESIRE RAPID AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT, IN VIEW OF EXPLOSIVENESS OF PRESENT SITUATION AND AMPLE ROOM IN IT FOR MILITARY MISCALCULATION; BUT THAT BOTH PARTIES NATURALLY WANT IT ON THEIR OWN TERMS.
4. WE SHARE USINT CAIRO'S IMPRESSION THAT ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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RATHER STICKY IN CILOMETER 101 TALKS ABOUT ALL SUBJECTS OTHER THAN DISENGAGEMENT, BUT THAT ON DISENGAGEMENT, THEY HAVE BEEN EXTRAORDINARILY FORTHCOMING (I.E. ABANDONMENT OF ORIGINAL PLAN OF MUTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF BOTH FORCES TO THEIR OWN SIDE OF

CANAL AND CONCESSION OF UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL TO EAST SIDE AND STATIONING OF EGYPTIAN FORCES ON BOTH SIDES OF CANAL). WITHOUT WANTING TO ASSUME POSE OF ISRAELI' ADVOCATE, WE WOULD ONLY NOTE, AS REGARDS ISRAELIS STICKINESS ON SUCH THINGS AS MAKING ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN NO MILITARY SUPPLIES ARE SNEAKED TO THIRD EGYPTIAN ARMY, THAT ISRAELIS ARE EVERY BIT AS SUSPICIOUS OF EGYPTIANS AS REFTEL REPORTS EGYPTIANS ARE OF ISRAELIS; ISRAELIS HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN HOW EGYPTIANS CHEATED ON STANDSTILL-CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT OF AUGUST 1970 BEFORE INK WAS DRY.

5. WE AGREE WITH USINT CAIRO THAT KILOMETER 101 PROCESS IS OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR BOTH SIDES FOR PURPOSES OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING. DESPITE ALL THE PROBLEMS OF THOSE TALKS, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THEY HAVE IN FACT PRODUCED SOME VERY SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED. THE GOI CONCURS. KEATING

CONFIDENTIAL

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